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1977
CENSUS OF
CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRIES

CC77-I-24(P)

Issued April 1979

Preliminary Report

Wrecking and Demolition Work Special Trade Contractors SIC 1795

During 1977, the establishments with payroll in this industry had business receipts of \$274.6 million. Of this amount \$253.9 million were receipts for construction work, an increase of 16 percent compared with 1972. Their payments for construction work subcontracted to others amounted to \$12.1 million leaving net construction receipts of about \$241.8 million. Total average employment in the industry showed a decrease of 5 percent from 1972 to 8.6 thousand employees. Payroll for 1977 amounted to \$92.6 million. Value added at \$224.7 million in 1977 was 15 percent more than in 1972.

The Wrecking and Demolition Work Special Trade Contractors industry includes establishments primarily engaged in the wrecking and demolition of buildings and other structures, which may or may not sell material derived from demolishing operations. Contractors primarily engaged in dismantling steel oil tanks (except oil field work) are also classified in industry 1795. This industry does not include establishments primarily engaged in marine wrecking (wrecking ships for scrap, removal of underwater hazards by divers, or salvaging from sunken craft—industry 4469). Underwater rock removal, dredging, and marine construction are classified in industry 1629. For a more detailed description, see the 1972 SIC Manual.¹

For this census, a "construction establishment" was defined as a relatively permanent office or other place of business at which or from which the usual business activities related to construction were conducted. A separate census report was required from each establishment but not from each construction site. Instead, the data for work at each site were included in the report from the appropriate office or branch office. Foreign construction activities were not included in this census.

The 1977 Census of Construction Industries is the sixth census of construction establishments in the United States. As in previous years, it was conducted jointly with the censuses of mineral industries, manufactures, retail trade, wholesale trade, and service industries under authority of title 13 of the United States Code. Although the first construction census was

conducted covering 1929, only the data from the censuses of 1967 and 1972 are comparable with the 1977 data.

The 1977 estimates for establishments with payroll in all of the construction industries are based on reports from a probability sample of approximately 181,000 establishments selected from about 536,000 construction establishments with payroll. The sample included all construction establishments with a payroll equivalent of 15 or more full-time employees and a sample of those with fewer employees. There were two exceptions: In SIC 1521, sampling was employed in establishments with less than 20 employees because of the large number of establishments in that industry; in SIC 1795, all known establishments were included because of the very small number of establishments in that industry. The data obtained from the sample were inflated to represent all construction establishments with payroll. Complete descriptions of the sampling and estimating procedures will be included in the final reports.

Since the data in this report are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability and may be expected to differ from results which would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules and procedures. The standard error shown in the tables is a measure of sampling variability, i.e., the variation that might occur by chance because only a sample of the population was surveyed. As calculated for this report, the standard error partially incorporates the effect of random errors of response, but it does not take into account the effect of any consistent biases due to those types of errors. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference is less than twice the standard error.

¹ Standard Industrial Classification Manual: 1972. For sale by Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Stock No. 4101-0066. Price \$6.75. 1977 Supplement. Stock No. 003-005-00176-0. Price 90 cents.



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Table 1. Detailed Statistics for Establishments With Payroll: 1977, 1972, and 1967

(Thousands of dollars. Detailed figures may not add to totals because of rounding. For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see text)

Item	Wrecking and demolition work special trade contractors (1795)			Standard error of estimate (percent)		
	1977	1972	1967	1977	1972	1967
Number of establishments.....	985	1,027	1,071	3	6	9
Proprietors and working partners.....	362	462	653	6	12	12
All employees:						
March.....	7,647	8,724	10,223	2	3	3
May.....	9,079	9,160	10,450	1	4	3
August.....	9,142	9,462	10,227	2	5	3
November.....	8,405	8,362	9,648	2	4	3
Average.....	8,583	9,067	10,218	2	4	2
Construction workers:						
March.....	6,377	7,237	8,847	2	4	4
May.....	7,678	7,650	9,134	2	5	3
August.....	7,821	7,953	8,859	3	6	3
November.....	7,062	6,843	8,340	2	4	3
Average.....	7,249	7,544	8,870	2	4	3
Other employees:						
March.....	1,270	1,487	1,371	2	5	4
May.....	1,401	1,510	1,381	2	5	4
August.....	1,321	1,509	1,378	2	5	4
November.....	1,343	1,519	1,320	2	5	4
Average.....	1,337	1,534	1,396	2	5	4
Payroll, all employees.....	92,623	80,173	62,166	1	3	2
Payroll, construction workers.....	72,960	64,081	51,232	2	3	2
Payroll, other employees.....	19,663	16,092	10,932	2	4	2
First quarter payroll, all employees.....	19,693	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Employer costs for fringe benefits.....	18,541	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Legally required expenditures.....	11,593	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Voluntary expenditures.....	6,948	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
All business receipts.....	274,572	236,678	173,320	2	4	2
Total construction receipts.....	253,876	219,412	161,457	2	4	2
Receipts for work subcontracted in from others.....	64,924	55,522	38,548	4	6	6
Other business and land receipts.....	20,696	17,266	11,873	1	3	3
Net construction receipts.....	241,754	202,581	150,826	2	4	2
Value added.....	224,653	195,358	144,711	2	4	2
Selected payments.....	49,919	41,320	28,622	2	6	5
Materials, components, and supplies.....	26,997	124,489	17,966	2	4	6
Construction work subcontracted to others.....	12,123	16,831	10,630	2	13	7
Selected power, fuels, and lubricants.....	10,799	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Electricity.....	845	(NA)	(NA)	3	(NA)	(NA)
Natural gas.....	379	(NA)	(NA)	27	(NA)	(NA)
Gasoline and diesel fuel.....	8,441	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Lubricating oils and greases.....	920	(NA)	(NA)	3	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	215	(NA)	(NA)	7	(NA)	(NA)
Rental payments for machinery, equipment, and structures.....	14,456	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
For machinery and equipment.....	13,496	18,858	13,200	2	10	5
For structures.....	960	(NA)	(NA)	4	(NA)	(NA)
Selected purchased services.....	17,798	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Communication.....	2,172	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Repairs to structures and related facilities.....	400	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Repairs to machinery and equipment.....	15,227	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Capital expenditures.....	18,333	17,409	8,129	2	10	5
New.....	10,285	13,319	5,598	2	12	5
Structures and related facilities.....	325	414	289	1	9	13
Machinery and equipment, including automobiles and trucks.....	9,960	12,905	5,309	2	13	2
Automobiles and trucks intended primarily for highway use.....	4,017	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Used.....	8,048	4,090	2,531	4	12	11
Structures and related facilities.....	152	585	291	(Z)	22	19
Machinery and equipment, including automobiles and trucks.....	7,896	3,505	2,240	4	13	12
Fixed assets and depreciation:						
Gross book value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	133,773	88,842	(NA)	2	7	(NA)
Accumulated depreciation at end of year.....	78,747	43,510	(NA)	2	5	(NA)
Net value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	55,027	45,332	(NA)	2	9	(NA)
Depreciation charges during year.....	13,896	10,781	(NA)	2	7	(NA)
Structures, additions, and related facilities:						
Gross book value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	7,592	4,781	(NA)	3	5	(NA)
Accumulated depreciation at end of year.....	3,314	1,513	(NA)	5	3	(NA)
Net value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	4,278	3,268	(NA)	2	6	(NA)
Depreciation charges during year.....	849	364	(NA)	9	6	(NA)
Machinery and equipment:						
Gross book value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	126,181	84,061	(NA)	2	7	(NA)
Accumulated depreciation at end of year.....	75,433	41,997	(NA)	2	5	(NA)
Net value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	50,749	42,064	(NA)	2	10	(NA)
Depreciation charges during year.....	13,047	10,417	(NA)	2	7	(NA)

¹Includes data for power, fuels, and lubricants, now shown separately.

This report does not include figures for separate administrative offices, warehouses, garages, or other auxiliary units which service construction establishments of the same company. Data for separate central administrative offices and auxiliaries are collected in the enterprise statistics survey, a part of the economic censuses.

This report is one in a series presenting preliminary data collected in the 1977 Census of Construction Industries. The universe for this census included all establishments classified in the construction industries (SIC's 15, 16, 17, and 6552). This report will be superseded by a more detailed final report. In addition to data for establishments with payroll presented here, the final Industry Summary report and the reports in the Geographic Area Series will present limited data for construction establishments with no payroll during 1977.

The totals of construction receipts reported by all construction establishments in each of the several industry, State, or other groupings in this census contain varying amounts of duplication, since the construction work (and the receipts) of one firm may be subcontracted out to other construction firms and, therefore, will be included in the subcontractor's receipts. To avoid this duplication, a "net construction receipts" figure has been derived by subtracting the payments made for construction work subcontracted to others from the construction receipts.

Usually, "value added" is the best measure for comparing the relative economic importance of industries or areas. It eliminates the duplication in receipts because of subcontracting. It also eliminates from the output measure the cost of materials, which differs in relative importance among areas and industries. For this census, "value added" is equal to all business receipts less payments for construction work subcontracted to others and payments for materials, components, supplies, and fuels. However, for industries for which land receipts are significant, "value added" is equal to all business receipts less land receipts, payments for construction work subcontracted to others, and payments for materials, components, supplies, and fuels.

The symbols in the tables mean:

- Represents zero.
 - D Withheld to avoid disclosing figures for individual companies; figures are included in higher level totals.
 - S Withheld because estimates did not meet publication standards on the basis of either the associated standard error or a consistency review.
 - Z Standard error of estimate is greater than zero but less than 1 percent.
 - a Sampling error is greater than 40 percent.
 - NA Not available; data were not collected.
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Note: Construction receipts for establishments with payroll by type of construction will not be provided for this industry.



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